# TARC NEWSLETTER

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MAY, 1996


**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V.PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

**CLUB INFORMATION**

TARC Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building
TARC Nets: VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910
Friendship - Thursdays at 1830 hrs on 146.910
Mosquito - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC Repeaters: VHF - 146.910 and 146.970. UHF - 444.150

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Bud Hughes K4CWG**

This is the time of year when some of our members pack their baggage and journey northward to enjoy and be in the presence of family and friends. We all bid you bon voyage. Now when autumn comes and you hear the rustlings of old man winter, just remember we who remain to keep the home fires burning will welcome you with open arms.

I want to thank the many members of TARC who continue to give support to the Jaycees in their many projects. By the way, have you noticed how the Jaycee ranks are growing? Keep up the good works, Jaycees!

TARC's Black Point Bikers continue to grow. Joining our group we had Abbie KF4DTC and her dad Alan KC4UUX. We were delighted to have Patty join in and ride with us. Patty is the better half of Butch KE4YQN. Dan and Kathie Vaughn (friends of Butch and Patty) joined in the bike ride, and we will be looking for them to join us next Sunday.

We had a pleasant surprise in that at about the half way point one of our 40 meter friends, Carl KK4JW from Franklin, NC was passing through on I-95. Through the 91/97 repeaters Ken KD4HNW talked Carl into taking a detour through Black Point for a short visit.

Hats off to Jose KC4VIO. He had ridden 60 miles on Saturday, then - bingo - Sunday morning there he was ready to lead the pack on another 7 mile ride. WOW! Of course this guy who started the Sunday morning Black Point bicycle ride continues to set the agenda for us. Thanks, Jose.

See you at the next club meeting. Why not invite a friend. Best of 73's

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT IN THE NEWSLETTER.**
**SHARE AN INTERESTING STORY**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|---|---|
| MAY 2 | W9LSD DICK DUELL |
| MAY 6 | KC4HMP BARBARA GOEBEL |
| MAY 10 | N1PAW JOE BONARDI |
| MAY 11 | KD4LXG PAUL WYNN |
| MAY 13 | KE4LNS DON McLEAN |
| MAY 17 | KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN |
| MAY 19 | KC4WZA JANET VAN ALSTINE |
| MAY 20 | KE4ZOZ ACE PIOTROWSKI |
| MAY 20 | KD4HON GEORGE FISCHER |
| MAY 21 | KE4HOD HOWARD ENGLAND |
| MAY 22 | KF4CDK WILLIAM BLUM |
| MAY 23 | KE4MXJ PEDRO LORENZI |
| MAY 24 | K4JYX JOHN ADAMS |
| MAY 24 | WA3EKM BRUCE JACOBS |
| MAY 25 | KE4BBJ CHARLIE PROSSER |
| MAY 25 | KE4MWW CRAIG BLACK |
| MAY 26 | KE4BBP BUBBA STITT |
| MAY 27 | WB1DBZ MONTY MONTPLAISIR |
| MAY 30 | KE4YQG PAUL KOLBECK |
| MAY 30 | KE4BBM NICHOLAS SARGENTI |
| MAY 31 | KD4VRU DICK EDWARDS |

## TWIN BROTHERS, TWIN CALL SIGNS

**By Rosalie White,WA1STO**
**From QST 5/96**

Floyd Bumpus is N5EL. His identical twin, Lloyd Bumpus is N6EL. How'd they do that? Well, it was just good timing.

In 1977 when the FCC allowed Extra Class licensees to apply for special call signs, Floyd was K5OKQ and Lloyd was W6PXB (ex K5ELY). They wrote a joint letter to the FCC and each sent a Form 610. On the same day, April 2, they received N5EL and N6EL. "Keeping up with current affairs concerning Amateur Radio through QST and other publications allowed us to be at the right place at the right time," said Floyd.

The twins got interested in Ham radio near the end of World War II, when their oldest brother was captured by the German Army in the Battle of the Bulge. The War Department sent a "missing-in-action" telegram to the family. A few months later they received a postcard from a ham radio operator in New York City saying he'd intercepted a message from a German station giving a list of names of prisoners of war being sent to a certain prison camp. The brother's name was on the list. "We had not received any information until this time about the welfare of our brother," Floyd recalled. "Within a few weeks we received a form card from him saying he was at the prison camp as had been noted on the postcard from the ham operator."

Eventually their brother was liberated, and Lloyd and Floyd joined the US Navy, serving together. Lloyd became a radio op and stayed 22 years, while Floyd got out after 4. In 1956, Lloyd - stationed in Asmara, Eritrea, at the time - made a phone patch to Floyd via Dick Freeling, W5TIZ, of Little Rock, Arkansas, who was completely blind. That's when the twins *really* got interested in the hobby and have since enjoyed QSOs with each other from all over the world.

"Amateur Radio has a special place in our lives, and I sincerely hope all operators can enjoy our hobby as much as we have. We are both very active in promoting Amateur Radio," Floyd said.

## HAM RADIO THESIS

**From Amateur Radio Newsline #971**

A Georgia ham has decided to use Amateur Radios' participation in emergencies as a subject for her Masters theses, and she is asking for your help. Bella Romain, N4ILQ of Carrollton, Georgia, has decided to do an in-depth study into just what motivates hams to risk their own lives to provide help to others. Sometimes doing so while putting their own personal safety at risk. She says it is something that needs to be better understood

"Ham radio has been a part of my life for many years Out - Q: . . .ham radio operators who do this."

Since nobody has done such a study, and since Bella Romain needs a topic for her theses, she figured she could combine the two into a single project that would benefit not only her, but the Amateur Radio service as well. To anyone interested after it has been completed and graded. If you want to become a part of this rather ambitious project, drop a note to:

Bella Romain, N4ILQ
285 Timber Ridge Trail
Carrollton, Georgia 30017

E-mail her via the Internet to: bella@mindspring.com

## RAINCOAT CHARLIE FINE UPHELD

**From Amateur Radio Newsline #971**

Raincoat Charlie has been ordered to pay up! Raincoat Charlie - the pseudonym used by William Irwin, J3CQR of De Bary, Florida when he was jamming other hams on 14.315 MHz will have to pay a $500 fine. This according to the FCC which says that it has denied Irwin's Petition for Reconsideration of the monetary forfeiture.

Back in December of 1992, the FCC's Vero Beach Field Office was made aware of interfering transmissions occurring on the 20 meter frequency. The interference continued on a regular basis until July 23, 1993. That's when federal agents traced the signals to Irwin's home. During a subsequent station inspection, Irwin admitted to the FCC that he had used his station to interfere with other hams on the frequency under the guise of Raincoat Charlie.

On July 28, 1993, the Vero Beach Field Office issued K3CQR a $2000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture. Irwin responded on August 11 that he could not pay. So on August 17, the assessment was lowered to $500, but Irwin still balked at paying. Again he petitioned the FCC claiming his inability to pay, but provided no financial information that would persuade the commission to further reduce its fine. Instead, he requested that the FCC permit him to inspect its records pertaining to the events that lead to his apprehension.

But the commission has now ruled that the $500 fine is more than reasonable because Irwin admitted being the source of willful and repeated interference to other ham radio communications. It has also denied his request to see the records of his case saying that can only happen if he files a Freedom of Information Act request. Even then the FCC can turn him down if it sees fit. In the meantime, Irwin was ordered to pay up. If he wants to appeal further it is going to cost a lot more than $500. That would not even be a down payment on a good communications lawyer capable of challenging the FCC in federal court.

## AO-10 BACK

**From Radio Newsline #971**

From AMSAT North America, word that OSCAR-10 may once again be coming back to live. Reports say that the satellite's transponder is putting out a beacon tone. Also, the downlink has been intermittently functional.

Oscar-10 is one of the oldest ham satellites still in orbit. As such it has been plagued by solar radiation corrupting its on-board computer. Also, low levels of sunlight reaching its panels have kept it off the air.

## NEW CD-ROM VERSION OF QST AVAILABLE

**From Amateur Radio Newsline #971**

The ARRL's new CD-ROM version of QST was a hit at the marketplace.

The CD-ROM features an entire year's worth of QST, plus QEX and the National Contest Journal. It includes full text, photographs, schematics and other graphics, and advertisements. Among other things, users can search for text and zoom in to schematics and diagrams to enhance detail.

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 28TH AT JAYCEE BUILDING AT 7:00 P.M.**

## 'HURRICANE ZELDA'
## (A DRILL)
**By Cliff KC4SYD**

**4/24/96 8:00 A. M. TO 5:00 P. M.**
**4/25/96 8:00 A. M. TO 2?45 P. M.**

In preparation for our next hurricane season (June - November), a statewide practice alert was implemented by the Emergency Management to fine tune our abilities to cope with future disasters.

Once again, TARC members displayed excellent cooperation with the Emergency Nets and is sincerely appreciated. We believe our "real life" experiences with 'Erwin' last year have provided our operators with ability and confidence in performing emergency communications.

As you will recall, during 'Erwin's' visit to North Brevard we lost one after the other of our repeaters (even a loaner from Coffee W0LRC) either with power failures or wind. During the 'Zelda' operation we did determine that simplex operating will give us a measure of communication (estimated 10 mile radius - low power). Something to remember in the event it's needed.

During the 'Zelda' drill there were approximately forty operators (random) reporting to Emergency Net Control Stations:

Mike KE4MWZ
Cliff KC4SYD
Sandy KE4TQXZ (Central Brevard)
Dave AC4JX

Those listed above thank you for your participation and discipline in creating the proper environment for an effective means of emergency communication.

## A CURE FOR STICKY MIKE SWITCHES
**By Ralph McCune KE6DJB**
**From QST May 1996**

A microphone switch that sticks closed can be very frustrating. I've sometimes thrown my microphone down and shouted, "I have to get a new one!" (And my spouse imagines another $60 'out the window' for ham radio.)

I've discovered that there are no metal springs in the switches of many mikes. Instead, the manufacturers use small pieces of foam rubber behind the push buttons to force the button's return.

If switches seem to stick closed and a spray of contact cleaner does not help, open the mike case and see if the rubber that backs up the switch is permanently deformed. If so, replace it with a new, stronger piece of rubber. Remember, temperatures in a car may vary from well below freezing to over 120 deg. F. That's tough duty for thin foam rubber.

Take care of your radio and it will take care of you.

## ANOTHER WAY
## TO INSTALL GROUND RODS
**By Michael Goins WB5YJX**
**From QST May, 1996**

Every amateur, at some time, needs to install one or more 8 foot ground rods, either as part of an antenna system or as a station ground.

It's really very easy if you know how. I've read of many ways to install ground rods, but this is by far the easiest. This simple process doesn't involve post-hole diggers, hammers or ladders, and it has worked reliably in Houston's very heavy gumbo-clay soil more times than I would like to remember. You need only a shovel (any kind will do), a bucket of water and the ground rod. It shouldn't take more than ten minutes to put a full 8 foot rod into the ground.

First, use the shovel to dig a *small* hole, about a foot deep, centered over the new ground rod location. Don't work too hard on the hole. Remove just a couple of shovels of dirt - enough to hold a couple of gallons of water.

When finished digging, pour some of the water from the bucket into the hole, and then push the ground rod down into the center of the hole as far as you can. Pull it out completely, and let the water in the hole run down into the indention that the ground rod made. Then push the ground rod down into the same hole again, as far as you can push easily push it. It's surprising just how easily it goes a little further into the ground each time, as long as there is water in the small hole that the rod makes. Repeat the process until the rod is the at the depth you

want it. I like to stop mine at about six inches above ground, so that I can easily attach bonding clamps and so that it's visible for mowing, safety from tripping, etc.

I've used this technique many times on station grounds and with antenna experiments. It works well. We in most of the Houston area have very dense clay soil, and I learned this technique while working for one of the major oil companies. It is by far the easiest method I've ever used to install ground rods.

## AMATEUR RADIO vs. THE COMPETITION?

**By Bill Kleronomos KD0HG**
**From QST May, 1996**

The "Correspondence" section of the January 1996 QST contained two letters that suggest that Amateur Radio may be, as one writer implies, "....a relic of the past." The message seems to be that we should abolish the Morse code requirements and find ways to compete with other means of communications such as the Internet and cellular telephones. Frankly, I disagree with the gloomy pictures painted by these authors.

By definition, Amateur Radio is more than the use of technology for interpersonal communications. The hobby is based on the use of *radio* technology; it is grounded in many individuals' interests in the scientific principles pertaining to both RF and electronics - subjects yet to be relegated to the trash heap of history! When it's stated that Amateur Radio is in competition with the aforementioned technology, that would mean we hams are somehow competing for new enlistees out of a limited pool of individuals - individuals who might interchangeably get a Pentium computer with Web-browsing software or a cell phone instead of a ham license. To imply that many of today's personal computer and Internet enthusiasts might have otherwise become hams is a faulty presumption.

I believe the opposite is true. These technologies can create an interest in the field of radio communication, and ham radio in particular. If you were alive in the '50s, you might have prematurely predicted the demise of Amateur Radio when thousands were homebrewing audio gear during the hi-fi craze of the time. And in the '70s, during the glory days of CB radio, you might make similar predictions. You would have been wrong on both counts. Ultimately, these hobbies contributed individuals to the pool of hams, and we benefited as a result.

Yes, the digital revolution has had an impact on other areas to a greater extend than ham radio. As one writer put it, "....with advanced digital audio technology in almost every home, we 'advanced' amateurs are still primarily using SSB and FM." This fascination with digital technology for its own sake is not a measure of the technical state of ham radio. A more reasoned view would show that we are embracing digital technology as it serves our purposes.

A new teenage ham who becomes fascinated by the restoration of an old tube transmitter will likely learn more about impedance matching, Ohm's Law, and RF amplification than many followers of other technical pursuits. Would Amateur Radio be somehow elevated if today's AM, FM, SSB and CW gear vanished overnight, replaced by thousands of imported spread-spectrum or pulse-code modulated devices? I think not.

Amateur Radio will prosper as long as we keep it a pursuit that means more than simply acquiring a piece of hardware. Let's not "dumb down" the service in a misguided effort to compete with other pursuits. If we do, we will surely lose. At the chief engineer of a broadcast operation, I would much rather see "Amateur Radio operator" on a job applicant's resume than "cell-phone user" or "Web surfer." Let's keep it that way.


## FOR SALE

**KENWOOD 77A DUAL BAND HT**
**KSC-7 RAPID CHARGER**
**SMC-33 HAND MIC**
**RH77B ANTENNA**
**STANDARD STUB ANTENNA**
**BOOM MIC HEADSET W/VOX HMC-2**
**HT IS MOD OUT OF BAND FOR CELLULAR RX**
**$475.00**

**DAVE N4WWG**
**268-4377**

## TREASURERS REPORT

**By K4EOS Clyde Lee**

| | |
|---|---|
| BALANCE FORWARD FROM 1995 | 2,780.03 |
| DEPOSITS Year to date | 5,255.07 |
| TOTAL INCOME | $8,035.10 |
| | |
| EXPENDITURES | 3,058.12 |
| BALANCE AS AT 04/24/96 | $4,976.93 |

## HAM KITS

At the April 23rd club meeting, I presented a plan from Tentec concerning their newly released ham kits. This is advertised in the latest issue of QST. For those who did not make the meeting, here are the details:

On purchases of $500 or more, they offer the club a 10% discount plus free shipping. I have a copy of the catalogue for any member to see. Bud K4CWG also has copy at his office. If interested, contact me - Clyde K4EOS, or Bud. These purchases would be made on one order. Your check to TARC and TARC check to Tentec.

## APRIL MEETING

**By Marty WD4JNM**

The meeting was called to order by Bud K4CWG at 1905 hours. After the Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence and introduction of members and guests, Clyde K4EOS spoke about kits by Tentech, and told about the discount offered for quantity buying through the club.

Don KE4LNS told the members that an account for the club has been opened at the blood bank. There are already 28 units donated for the use of members and their families. Anyone wishing to donate blood should go to the blood bank and tell them it is for the TARC account.

Ralph AE4LE explained the tornado drill that will take place on the 24th.

There was some discussion on where to put the 145.49 repeater. It was decided to ask the technical committee to do some research and come up with a suggestion.

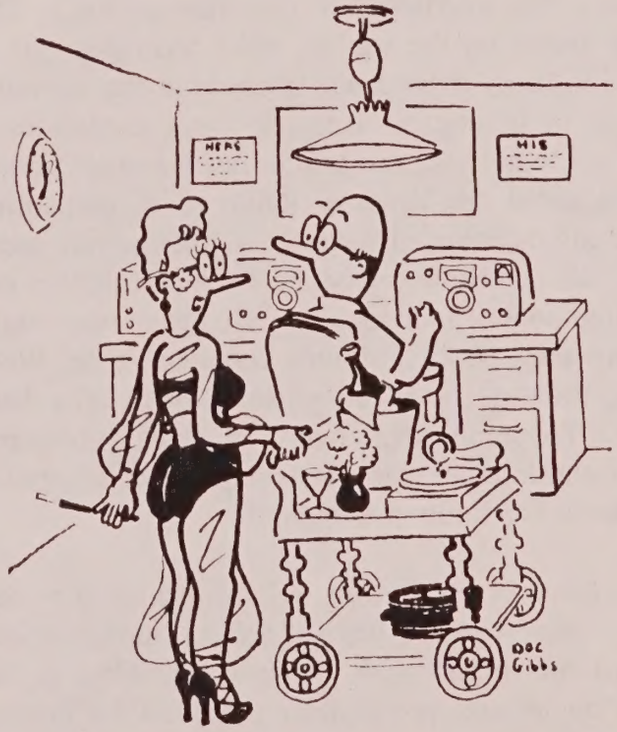
After the break Carl KD4CBT Introduced Dick Knopf of the Chamber of Commerce who told of the lore and legend of how Titusville came to have the rocket. He asked for help to raise money for restoration of the rocket to keep it in Titusville. Anyone interested should attend the meetings on May 1 and 7 at the Jaycee building. He then introduced Bob Thunker who talked about the cost of restoration.

There were 32 members and 4 visitors present at the meeting.


## FOR SALE

**ICOM 25A . . . . . .$200.00**
**KPC-2 PACKET TNC . . . . . .$90.00**

**DAVE N4WWG**
**268-5477**


"Would you QRT, dear? It's time for my Paris sched with Raoul."

## ABELL'S ANECDOTES

**By Pike W4EPU**

**Communicating around the world with one's self:**

My TS-530S transceiver recently experienced a failure. The output signal had a very high 60 cps AC hum. It turned out to be a bad electrolytic filter capacitor in the high voltage power supply.

After repairs were made, and in order to listen to my own test signal, I used an external receiver to pick up the signal and verify that the problem had indeed been corrected. With the transmitter in the CW mode, connected to a 40 meter inverted vee dipole and tuned to a quiet spot in the 40 meter CW band, I pressed the hand key momentarily. When I heard the signal in the other receiver it sounded crisp and clean. My rig was fixed.

But I also heard something very unusual. It was something that sounded like an echo following shortly after the original signal. The 'echo' was weaker but definitely a copy. To make sure it was not my ears playing tricks on me, I sent a single dot, or dit, several times. Each time the so-called echo followed. Perhaps the signal was bouncing off a building or some other nearby structure. By now my curiosity was getting the best of me. I used an oscilloscope to measure the time difference between the original signal and the echo. The echo lagged by 160 milliseconds. At the speed of light, I figured that a signal would travel almost 30,000 miles in 160 milliseconds. By factoring in the height of the ionosphere, the skip distances and the number of hope, 160 milliseconds would be about right for the time it would take a signal to travel 25,000 miles around the earth and back to the point of origin. I sent another dit. The echo was gone. I never heard it again. I am now convinced, however, that for a short period of time I was indeed actually hearing my own signal after it had literally traveled around the world.

That all took place on April 1, the day when pranksters are motivated by anomalies and all sorts of nonsense to trick the unsuspecting into believing weird stories. On that day, for example, the Taco fast food chain claimed they bought the liberty bell which they will hereafter refer to as the Taco Bell. Also on that day I, too, just felt dubious and mischievous enough to fabricate this preposterous story about hearing my own CW signal after it had circled mother earth.... 73s es 88s

## LOSING (USING) WEIGHT BY COUNTING CALORIES

**By Pike W4EPU**

The law of thermodynamics dictate that - if a person takes in more calories than their body requires, he/she will gain weight. Conversely, if a person consumes fewer calories than their body needs, he/she will lose weight. (Actually, you don't LOSE it, you USE it.) The requirements for daily caloric intake varies with people of different weights and statures. Using an example in which a person's daily caloric input requirement to sustain a given weight is 2000 calories, if that person held the intake to 1200 calories a day, each day he/she would accumulate 800 negative calories. At that rate, in 4-1/2 days one would accumulate minus 3600 calories - enough to have lost a pound. In this example, if the diet was sustained for 90 days, that person would lose 20 pounds.

Is it difficult to hold your calorie intake to a certain level? Not at all. Get yourself a good calorie counting book. Set your goal of 1200, 1500 calories or whatever. (An average person limiting calorie intake to 1500 calories a day will lose about a pound a week. The less you take in the faster you lose weight.) At first don't diet. Just count the calories and keep a record of what you eat and the number of calories for each food item. In a couple of days you will begin to realize which are the 'biggies' (usually sweets and fatty stuff.) Begin eliminating them, and in just a few days you will be comfortable and satisfied with your lower calorie intake.

Obviously it is very important to get some exercise like walking or something to help use some of the calories.

Also allow yourself one - and only one - freebie. Apples, for example. Apples contain a lot of fiber and no fat. For example, if you get hungry before bedtime, eat an apple. In fact, eat apples any time of the day without charging yourself calories. Cantaloupe, honeydew, grapefruit also qualify as freebies.

Finally, suppose you get invited out for dinner and exceed your limit by a bunch. Amazingly enough, if it only happens occasionally, it does not seem to affect the overall weight loss schedule. It works for me!!

Good eating...

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 278. (205 regular, 68 family, 5 honorary)

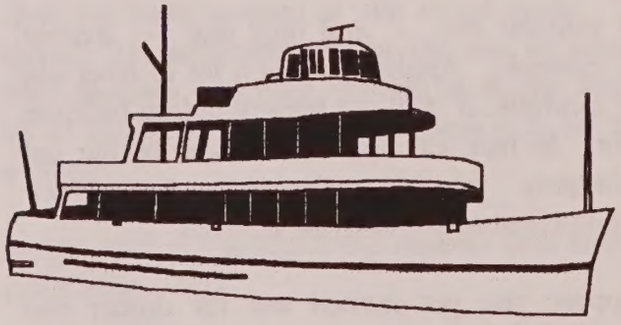
NEW MEMBERS: NOT YET TOM YENCSO
KB4DCZ RON SWANK
KF4IGB PAT WIDICK
KF4IGH HEATHER McLEAN
KF4IGI DANIEL McLEAN
KF4IGJ CLIFF HILL
KF4IGO JUNE FOSTER
KE4YQB MIKE PALM
KC7QDT ALAN ERICKSON

RENEWALS: KE4BBH JIM PREVATT
KE4HOG NANCY PREVATT
KE4BBJ CHARLES PROSSER
KE4BK ORA PROSSER
KD4CBV GEORGE BORTLE
KE4BBL CINDY BORTLE
KE4BBM NICHOLAS SARGENTIN
KT4CP BUCK THORNE
KR4CY BILL PALM
KF4CXZ DEBBIE HARRINGTON
KD4JBE HOOT GIBSON
KS4JN RAY HUDSON
KE4KCT CHARLES FROST
KE4MX BONNIE FROST
KD4LDR BILL DIMEO
KE4HDF ANGIE DIMEO
N4LEM RAY KASSIS
KE4LSV KENT THOMPSON
N4MCZ ROD IWAN
KD4TLK STEVE BIDWELL
KE4MWZ MIKE ELLIXSON
KE4MXA NOEL ELLIXSON
KE4NYM MATT KELLER
W4OPZ JOE SINGLETON
KR7UOW BRUCE ERICKSON
KE4WJR KEN STRAYER
KE4WJT ARLENE McLEAN
KE4YQG PAUL KOLBECK

**HAMFESTS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8/3,4 | Jacksonville |
| 9/7-8 | Melbourne |
| 9/14 | Sunrise |
| 9/22 | New Port Richey |
| 10/19 | Starke |
| 10/19-20 | West Palm Beach |
| 11/2 | Sorrento |
| 11/9 | Titusville |
| 11/23-24 | Tampa |
| 12/7 | Okeechobee |
| 12/7 | Ocala |
| 12/14 | Lake City |

**TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
**P. O. BOX 73**
**TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073**



**MOTHER'S DAY GIFT SUGGESTION**